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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

Addendum

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted decision 47/422, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session" (see A/47/PV.81). In paragraph (a) of that decision, the Assembly decided to reconvene meetings of the First Committee for five working days, from 8 to 12 March 1993 in New York, with the purpose of reassessing the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, in particular the respective roles of the First Committee, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament and their interrelationship, as well as the role of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including ways and means to enhance the functioning and efficiency of the said machinery, bearing in mind the competence of the Security Council in those matters. The aim of the session was to conduct the aforementioned reassessment with a view to reaching concrete, agreed recommendations for appropriate action. With respect to the Conference on Disarmament, it was understood that the primary responsibility for making recommendations on its future rested with that body.

2. At its 41st meeting, on 8 March, the first meeting of its resumed session, the First Committee decided to hold a general exchange of views on issues referred to in decision 47/422. The general exchange of views took place at the 41st and the 42nd meetings, also on 8 March (see A/C.1/47/PV.41 and 42).

3. At its resumed session, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing views of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/47/887 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4);

(b) Letter dated 3 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/902);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/C.1/47/7);

(d) Letter dated 25 February 1993 from the President of the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/47/14);

(e) Letter dated 9 March 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the First Committee (A/C.1/47/15).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.56

4. On 11 March, the Chairman of the First Committee submitted a draft resolution entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session" (A/C.1/47/L.56), which was introduced by the Chairman at the 44th meeting, on 12 March.

5. At the 44th meeting, on 12 March, the Secretary of the First Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/47/PV.44).

6. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.56 was orally revised by the Chairman as follows:

(a) At the end of the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "multifaceted realities of international security" were replaced with the words "international situation";

(b) At the end of the eleventh preambular paragraph, the words "in the field of disarmament" were added.

7. Also at the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.56 was orally revised by the representative of Pakistan, as follows: at the end of the first preambular paragraph, the words "bearing in mind the competence of the Security Council in those matters," were added.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.56, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 47/422 of 9 December 1992, by which it decided to reconvene meetings of the First Committee from 8 to 12 March 1993 in order to reassess the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, in particular the respective roles of the First Committee, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament and their interrelationship, as well as the role of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including ways and means to enhance the functioning and efficiency of the said machinery, bearing in mind the competence of the Security Council in those matters,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", 1/

Taking note also of the views of Member States on that report, 2/

Taking note further of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, 3/ as well as its report on the ongoing review of the agenda, composition and methods of work of the Conference, 4/

Recalling the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 5/ the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Having considered the views expressed by Member States at the resumed session of the First Committee on these questions,

Conscious that the new international situation has enhanced the prospects for disarmament and arms regulation, which is conducive to further multilateral efforts in disarmament,

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1/ A/C.1/47/7.

2/ See A/47/887 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4.

3/ A/C.1/47/14, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

5/ Resolution S-10/2.

Stressing the need for the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery to respond to the new international situation,

Noting that a review is being undertaken regarding the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees of the General Assembly,

Noting also the continuing review of the role and resources of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in order to strengthen its effective functioning,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's statement of 9 March 1993 that the Secretariat's capabilities are being strengthened to enable it to discharge its responsibilities effectively in the field of disarmament,

Desiring to enhance the effective functioning of the present multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. Decides that the First Committee of the General Assembly, in pursuit of its efforts to respond to the new realities of international security, should continue to deal with the questions of disarmament and related international security issues;

2. Requests the Chairman of the First Committee to continue his consultations on the further rationalization of the work and the effective functioning of the Committee, taking into account all the views and proposals presented to the First Committee, including those related to the thematic clustering of agenda items;

3. Reaffirms the role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission as a specialized deliberative body within the United Nations disarmament machinery, and takes note of the progress achieved in its ongoing process of reform;

4. Recommends that every effort be made to continue to enhance the working methods of the United Nations Disarmament Commission so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, and to that end welcomes the decision of the Commission to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

5. Takes note of the fact that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single global disarmament negotiating forum, is a body of limited composition taking its decisions on the basis of consensus and maintains its special status in relationship with the United Nations disarmament machinery;

6. Welcomes the fact that the Conference on Disarmament, in addition to the review of its composition, has also intensified the review of its agenda and methods of work, with a view to reaching prompt decisions on these questions;

7. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to reach early agreement on the expansion of its membership;

8. Stresses the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

9. Urges the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to strengthen the Office for Disarmament Affairs in order to ensure that it has the necessary means and resources to carry out its mandated tasks;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report on those steps to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

11. Decides to review these questions at its forty-eighth session.